

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
receiving audiovisual data from a desired transmission channel;
if said audiovisual data is not compressed according to a predetermined format,
compressing said received audiovisual data according to said predetermined format;
storing dynamically, in a mass storage device and for a predefined period of
time, compressed audiovisual data received from said desired transmission channel
according to a title plan generated by a time shift scheduler, wherein said title plan
includes a plurality of content, wherein at least one of said plurality of content has a
variable duration, wherein storing dynamically comprises continually updating an
allocation of memory in said mass storage device for said at least one of said plurality
of content having a variable duration; and
in response to a user request, providing to said user said stored compressed
audiovisual data beginning with a portion of said stored compressed audiovisual data
having associated with it a first temporal parameter ~~via said desired transmission
channel.~~
2. (currently amended) In a system adapted to receive broadcast content on a
desired transmission channel from each of a plurality of content sources and forward
said received broadcast content to a transport network for distribution to subscribers, a
method comprising:
in response to a title plan generated by a time shift scheduler, wherein said title
plan includes a plurality of content, wherein at least one of said plurality of content has
a variable duration, storing dynamically said broadcast content in a server and
associating with said broadcast content a temporal parameter, wherein storing
dynamically comprises continually updating an allocation of memory in a mass storage
device for said at least one of said plurality of content having a variable duration;

forwarding said broadcast content to said transport network for distribution in accordance with said temporal parameter to a requesting subscriber; and

in response to a subscriber request for temporally shifted content associated with said broadcast content, forwarding said stored broadcast content to said transport network for distribution to said requesting subscriber ~~via said desired transmission channel.~~

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
forwarding to said transport network only the received broadcast content presently requested by any subscriber.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
storing, in said server, broadcast content presently requested by a threshold number of subscribers.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said storing of said desired broadcast content comprises storing a temporally sub-sampled version of the desired broadcast content to generate a fast-forward track.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said storing of said desired broadcast content comprises storing a temporally sub-sampled version of the desired broadcast content in reverse order to generate a reverse track.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said storing of said desired broadcast content comprises storing a version of the desired broadcast content to generate a play track.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising, storing selected broadcast content during a predetermined time interval of a broadcast schedule.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said subscriber request for temporally shifted content is initiated by receiving a subscriber title selection from a time shift interactive programming guide screen.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said subscriber request for temporally shifted content is initiated by receiving a subscriber title selection from a time shift navigation screen.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said subscriber request for temporally shifted content is initiated by receiving a pause or rewind subscriber selection while broadcasting of said desired content.

12. (currently amended) A method for providing video information in an interactive information distribution system to a plurality of subscribers, comprising:

receiving a plurality of scheduled broadcast programs on a desired transmission channel in real-time;

selecting a portion of said broadcast programs according to a title plan generated by a time shift scheduler, wherein said title plan includes a plurality of content, wherein at least one of said plurality of content has a variable duration;

processing said selected broadcast programs into temporally adjusted content, such that the temporally adjusted content is associated with said selected broadcast programs;

storing dynamically said temporally adjusted content, wherein storing dynamically comprises continually updating an allocation of memory in a mass storage device for said at least one of said plurality of content having a variable duration;

broadcasting said plurality of scheduled broadcast programs to said plurality of subscribers via said desired transmission channel; and

in a first mode of operation, associating a temporal parameter to said temporally adjusted content and streaming, on-demand, said temporally adjusted content having said temporal parameter to those subscribers viewing said selected broadcast programs currently being broadcast, such that said subscribers may interactively

activate such temporally adjusted content contemporaneously with said currently broadcast programs.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
providing a navigator list to said subscribers having screens presenting said selected broadcast programs having temporally adjusted content for viewing and selection,
wherein in an alternate mode of operation, streaming, on-demand, said temporally adjusted content via said navigator list, such that said subscribers may interactively activate such temporally adjusted content during viewership of previously scheduled broadcast programs selected from said navigator list.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said subscribers may interactively switch between said first mode and said alternate mode of operation.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said selecting step comprises:
monitoring subscriber viewership; and
selecting those broadcast programs having a viewership exceeding a predetermined metric.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said selecting step further comprises:
generating title plans for identifying said broadcast programs to be temporally adjusted; and
defining a temporal availability window for each program.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said processing step comprises:

generating real-time encoded play tracks, fast-forward tracks, rewind tracks, and entry point data (EPD) files associated with each track., said fast-forward tracks and rewind tracks forming said temporally adjusted content.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said processing step further comprises:

encoding said broadcast programs identified in said title plan to form said temporally adjusted programs; and
buffering said encoded broadcast programs.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said processing step further comprises:

receiving packetized transport streams from at least one encoder; and
inserting title identification codes (TICs) to each packet to enable said transport streams to be identified as said real-time encoded play tracks, fast-forward tracks, and rewind tracks.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
generating said EPD files as said fast-forward and rewind tracks are being created.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said EPD files provide transition between streaming of the Play, fast-forward and rewind tracks at appropriate points in response to user commands.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said storing step comprises:

receiving said buffered encoded broadcast programs;
storing said real-time play tracks in a plurality of extents;
storing said fast-forward tracks in extents in a front to back order; and
storing said rewind tracks in extents in a back to front order.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, where said storing step further comprises storing selected broadcast programs from a particular channel for a fixed window of time.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, where said storing step further comprises storing selected broadcast programs from a plurality of channels.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said first mode of operation further comprises
providing an interactive program guide (IPG) to said subscribers having screens presenting said selected broadcast programs having temporally adjusted content for viewing and selection.

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said first mode of operation further comprises receiving a temporal control message from a subscriber selected from the group of temporal control messages consisting of pause, rewind, and fast-forward.

28. (currently amended) A system for providing video information in an interactive information distribution system to a plurality of subscribers, comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of scheduled broadcast programs on a desired transmission channel in real-time;

means for selecting a portion of said broadcast programs according to a title plan generated by a time shift scheduler, wherein said title plan includes a plurality of content, wherein at least one of said plurality of content has a variable duration,
wherein storing dynamically comprises continually updating an allocation of memory in a mass storage device for said at least one of said plurality of content having a variable duration;

means for processing said selected broadcast programs into temporally adjusted content, such that the temporally adjusted content is associated with said selected broadcast programs;

means for storing dynamically said temporally adjusted content;

means for broadcasting said plurality of scheduled broadcast programs to said plurality of subscribers via said desired transmission channel; and

in a first mode of operation, means for associating a temporal parameter to said temporally adjusted content and streaming, on-demand, said temporally adjusted content having said temporal parameter to those subscribers viewing said selected broadcast programs currently being broadcast, such that said subscribers may interactively activate such temporally adjusted content contemporaneously with said currently broadcast programs.